

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****United States Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
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08/978, 753 11/26/97 MARKOVIC

I 07844/199001

EXAMINER

TM02/1023

PAULA, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED:

10/23/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

Address : COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
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| EXAMINER | |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | |

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

1. The communication filed 8/2/01 is informal/non-responsive for the reason(s) checked below and should be corrected.
APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER OR UNTIL THE EXPIRATION OF THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE SET IN THE LAST OFFICE ACTION (WHICHEVER IS LONGER) WITHIN WHICH TO CORRECT THE INFORMALITY.
 - a. The amendment to claim(s) _____, filed 8/2/01, fails to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.121 and is accordingly held to be non-responsive. A supplemental paper correcting the informal portions and complying with the rule is required.
 - b. The paper is unsigned. A duplicate paper or ratification, properly signed, is required.
 - c. The paper is signed by _____, who is not of record. A ratification or a new power of attorney with a ratification, or a duplicate paper signed by a person of record, is required.
 - d. The communication is presented on paper which will not provide a permanent copy. A permanent copy, or a request that a permanent copy be made by the Office at applicant's expense, is required; see M.P.E.P. 714.07.
 - e. Other
2. In accordance with applicant's request, THE PERIOD FOR RESPONSE FROM THE OFFICE ACTION DATED _____ IS EXTENDED TO RUN _____ MONTH(S).
No further extension will be granted unless approved by the Commissioner. 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (b)
3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 which papers have been made of record in the file.
4. Other

STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed on 8/2/2001.

This action is made Non-final.

2. In the amendment, claims 1-47 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 23-24, 27, 38-40, and 46-47 are independent claims.

Response to Amendment

3. Bracketing or underlining are used to indicate amendments or changes in the claims as provided in 37 CFR 1.121(a)(2)(ii) and are normally not intended to be printed in the published patent. Underlining is used to indicate text to be added to the claim, while bracketing is used to indicate deleting text. In the reply filed 8/2/2001, applicant has improperly used underlining text. The Examiner has come across with at least one instance, where an added limitation—“indicia of assembly and—(L.5), has not been underlined indicating Applicants intention to add such limitation, because claim 1 as amended on the paper filed on 5/14/98 does not reflect such limitation. It is required that the added limitations, which were not present in the original claim language be underlined.

Furthermore, Applicants must now comply with 37 CFR 1.121(c), since any further amendment will be filed after March 1, 2001, and therefore must comply with the new rules.

Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given TIME PERIOD of **ONE (1) MONTH** or **THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply a proper amendment in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 in order

to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

I. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cesar B. Paula whose telephone number is (703) 306-5543. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 308-5186. However, in such a case, please allow at least one business day.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this Action should be mailed to:

Director United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

- **(703) 746-7238**, (for **After Final** communications intended for entry)
- **(703) 746-7239**, (for **Formal** communications intended for entry)

Or:

- **(703) 746-5644**, (for **Informal or Draft** communications for discussion only, please label “**PROPOSED**” or “**DRAFT**”).

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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Art Unit: 2176

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